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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do feel wretched when I am held up for 10 or 15 minutes. But that cannot be helped, Sir."

Sanction of permanent establishment for each taluk to be in charge of election work.

* 64 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to sanction a permanent establishment for each taluk to be in charge of election work relating to Assembly, Local Boards, Groundnut Market Committee and Panchayat Boards?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is a proposal under the consideration of the Government for employing a nucleus staff on a permanent basis in the offices of the Electoral Registration Officers of the Assembly constituencies, namely, all taluk offices in the mufassal except six and the sub-taluk office, Hosdrug, for work connected with the preparation and maintenance of electoral rolls and elections to the Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies. This staff is not intended for other work. There is no proposal for the employment of staff on a permanent basis in each taluk office for election work relating to Local Boards, Panchayat Boards and Groundnut Market Committees."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" In view of the fact that regular establishment is being disturbed by pooling candidates for election work and also in view of the fact that the election rules are not being adhered to correctly by such candidates, will the Government examine the question of appointing some special staff for election work? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" For making the candidates observe the election rules, there is no use of having permanent officials. Perhaps, we should have permanent candidates."

Number of motor vehicles kept for State purposes in each of the Government Departments.

* 65 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Registration, Endowments and Transport be pleased—

(a) to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of motor vehicles kept for State purposes in each of the Government Departments and the annual cost of maintenance of the same in each department ; and

(b) to state how the motor vehicles belonging to the Civil Supplies Department were disposed of, consequent on the decontrol of foodstuffs?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) A statement [a] showing the number of motor vehicles kept for State purposes in each of the Government Departments and the annual cost of their maintenance is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) Consequent on the decontrol of foodstuffs, 36 jeeps, 6 station wagons, 11 trailers and 2 lorries were transferred from Civil Supplies Department to other Government Departments. The question of transfer of some more Civil Supplies vehicles to other Departments is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, how many of these motor vehicles have been converted into buses for State Transport in the City? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, if a log book is maintained in each of the offices concerned to note the official purpose for which the vehicles are being used by the departmental officials? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think, Sir, a log book is maintained."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Have the Government received any complaint, Sir, about the use of State-owned vehicles for private purposes by some of the officials, and what action has been or is proposed to be taken against such misuse? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government at least take notice of it now and issue instructions to Heads of Departments to take steps to guard against such misuse by the officials of the various departments which are supplied with State vehicles? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" If specific cases are brought to the notice of the Government, they will be gone into. I will also examine the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, I find that the annual cost of maintenance of vehicles used by the Special Chief Engineer's Department is Rs. 23,29,000. Is it higher than what it was last year? Is the expenditure on the increase year after year? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It is only approximate cost, Sir. In some cases, the cost of petrol, etc., has to be included."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, as the Civil Supplies Department has been abolished, why should there be 158 vehicles still left with the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies), and for what purpose these vehicles are being used? " 2-40 p.m.

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 140 infra.

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" As I said, Sir, the whole matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" Sir, would it not be in the interests of economy to dispense with this motor car facility for all the departments except the medical and the police and revert to the old system of double bullock carts? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not think, Sir, it is possible with the increased work we are having at present."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, are these 158 vehicles kept idle in the garage or are they being used by the officers for any official purpose? Are the Government aware that these vehicles are being used by some of the officers not for official purposes? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—Sir, I think they are used for official purposes only. I do not think they are used for unofficial purposes."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Sir, will the Government be pleased to make enquiries about this alleged misuse and take necessary steps as the matter has now been brought to the notice of the Government on the floor of this House? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I shall cause enquiries to be made. Sir."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, will the Government consider the question of reducing the expenditure on account of the annual cost of maintenance of these vehicles which, I find, every year is nearly a crore of rupees? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that the expenditure should be reduced? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Yes. I think the expenditure is colossal and that it should be reduced."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is what I said. The whole matter is being considered."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY·

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following messages, dated the 14th May 1954, from the Hon. the Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

(1) *The Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill,* 1953 (*L.A. Bill No.* 23 *of* 1953).

'In accordance with rule 99 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1953 (L.A. Bill No. 23 of 1953), as passed by the Assembly on the 14th May 1954, and signed by me, for the concurrence of the Counsil.'